decision taken in November, 1986, to implement the project as a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Tehri Dam Project is to be completed as scheduled, by June 1997.

Shortage of power in northern States

632. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern States in the country as well as Delhi, experienced severe power shortage in recent weeks;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such shortages; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the power supply position in the region ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN) :(a) and (b) The Statewise details of the power shortage in the Northern Region, including Delhi during the period April, 1989 to February, 1990 are given in Statement.

Due to severe cold conditions and failure of rains, the demand for power had increased substantially in the Northern Region during the last Winter season. This necessitated load shedding during peak hours to contain the demand within the availability.

(c) A number of measures have been taken to ensure adequate availability of power in this Northern Region. These include expeding commissioning of new generating capacities, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existingpower stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas, intensive monitoring of the grid operations and coordination of power supply position in the region, etc.

Statement

Power shortage in the Northern Region

(April, 1989—February, 1990)

State/UTs	Shortage (%)
1. Delhi	1·6
2. Haryana	5·3
3. Jammu and Kashmir	12·1
4. Punjab including NFF	9.4
5. Rajasthan	3·0
6. Uttar Pradesh	10.6
7. Himachal Pradesh	Nil
8. Chandigarh	Nil

Flaring of gas in Bombay High

633. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural gas worth crores of rupees is being burnt in Bombay High because of inadequate distributuon system;

(b) if so, in which manner Government propose to utilise this gas;

(c) whether there is any plan to carry this gas to the Southern States; if so, what are the outlines thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide 'comprehensive gas supply' to Delhi, Bombay and other metropolitan cities to ensure comfortable LPG supply in these cities ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) At present about 144 million cubic metres per day of natural gas is being flared in the Western Offshore fields. Additional facilities for evacuation and compression are proposed to be set up so that the gas can be brought on shore and supplied to consumers.

(c) An inter-ministerial committees is being appointed to examine the various issues pertaining to establishment of a Southern Gas Grid.

(d) The Gas Authority of India have proposed a project for supply of natural gas to domestic consumers as also industrial and commercial consumers in Bombay. The proposal is under consideration of the Government. The feasibility of supplying natural gas in Delhi is also being studied.

Development of industrial backward districts in Orissa

634. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 544 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1989 and to state :

(a) what are the proposals with the Central Government for development of the industrially backward districts in Orissa;

(b) whether any scheme has been drawn up in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The industrialisation of a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, in order to promote industrialisation and reduce regional imbalances, the Central Government offers a number of incentives such as priority in the grant of industrial licences, concessional finance, exemption from income tax etc. to entrepreneurs setting up units in centrally declared backward areas. In the case of Orissa, a total of 8 backward districts are eligible for such concessions, in addition, the Central Government has also sanctioned 3 growth centres to Orissa under the 'No Industry District' Infrastructural Development Scheme, which are under various stages of implementation. Grotwh centres are also proposed to be established in Orissa under the new Growth Centre Scheme.

Setting up of industries in the 'No Industy Districtrs' at Orissa

635. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) how many 'No Industry Districts' are there in the the country ;

(b) whether there are some such districts in Orissa also ;

(c) if so, what are their names ; and

(d) what steps have been taken to set up industries in those 'No Industry Districts'?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) 93 districts have been identified as 'No Industry Districts'.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, Balasore, Bolangir and Phulbani are the three 'No Industry Districts' in the State of Orissa.

(d) Industrialisation of specific districts/areas is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory concerned. The Central Government supplements their efforts by providing